

Claims

1. A telecommunications network comprising a plurality of user nodes, a relay node, and controller means operative to allocate resources so as to control levels of traffic transmitted from/to the user nodes via the relay node, the
5 controller means being operative to allocate a data transmission rate for traffic from user nodes via the relay node to user nodes which is up to twice that for traffic via the relay node in from or out of the network.
2. A telecommunications network according to claim 1, in which at least some user nodes include a respective regulator of best effort traffic, said
10 regulators being controlled by traffic level control signals sent by the controller.
3. A telecommunications network according to claim 2, in which the regulators are controlled by the control signals so as to set the maximum level of traffic sent per unit time by their respective nodes.
4. A telecommunications network according to claim 1, in which the
15 traffic comprises best-effort traffic.
5. A telecommunications network according to claim 1, in which the traffic comprises traffic having a predetermined associated Quality of Service (QoS)
6. A telecommunications network according to claim 1, which is a
20 wireless local area network.
7. A method of controlling levels of traffic transmitted from/to user nodes via a relay node in a telecommunications network by allocating resources so as to meet data transmission rate targets, including the step of setting a data transmission rate for traffic from one user node via the relay node to another user
25 node which is up to twice that for traffic via the relay node into or out of the network.
8. A method according to claim 7, in which control signals are sent to the nodes, the nodes being provided with regulators controlled by the control signals and operative to limit the level of traffic per unit time sent by the respective
30 node.
10. A network node for a telecommunications network, the node comprising a regulator operative under the control of received control signals to

limit the levels of traffic sent on by the node per unit time dependent on desired data transmission rate, the desired data transmission rate for traffic from user nodes via the relay node to user nodes being set at up to twice that for traffic via the relay node in from or out of the network.

- 5 **11.** A network node for a telecommunications network according to claim 10, the node being a relay node.
- 12.** A network node for a telecommunications network according to claim 10, the node being a user node.

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